

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and add the following new claims:

12. A connecting element for insertion into ends of at least two hollow sections of different cross-section, comprising: a frame with side walls extending in a direction x of insertion; and a push-fit body shape-formed by extrusion on the frame, the push fit body having a smaller cross-section than the frame and containing lengths of the frame side walls.

13. A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the frame surrounds the push-fit body.

14. A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the push-fit body forms a corner of the frame.

15. A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein a frame bracket is formed onto the frame on an outer side of one of the side walls.

16. A connecting element according to claim 15, wherein the frame bracket has arms on the frame aligned with parallel side walls of the frame.

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X 17. A connecting element according to claim 12, and further comprising a sleeve for a bolt at two opposite lying corners within the frame.

X 18. A connecting element according to claim 12, and further comprising a sleeve for a bolt at two opposite lying corners in the frame bracket.

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X 19. A connecting element according to claim 12, wherein the push-fit body is arranged to project out of one side of the frame in the direction of insertion (x).

X 20. A connecting element according to claim 15, wherein the frame is configured to project on one side in the direction of insertion beyond a plane defined by an outer edge of the frame bracket.

X 21. A connecting element according to claim 20, wherein on an opposite side of the frame bracket the push-fit body projects beyond a plane defined by the outer edge.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please cancel the present abstract and insert the abstract attached on a separate sheet.